



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Representative Boehner, Senator Reid, and Senator McConnell:

On February 12, 2010 the Administration submitted a proposal to amend the FY 2010 supplemental funding for the FY 2010 budget. This amendment included \$1.5 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to supplement the \$3.6 billion requested for FY 2010 in the FY 2011 budget. I am writing you to reiterate the urgent need for funding for domestic disasters through the FEMA DRF. This funding is essential to the preparedness of the Nation and is needed to ensure the further recovery from the many disasters that have affected the Nation, including our continued recovery from historical flooding in 2008, as well as the recent severe weather, snow and ice disasters declared within the past few weeks.

The Administration estimates the DRF will be depleted this month if Congress fails to act. The crucial role of the DRF is exemplified by the eight federally declared disasters for eight separate states, for the month of February alone. Specifically, Iowa received two declarations related to record snowstorms and severe weather, one on February 25 for record snow and winter storms occurring between December 23 and 27, 2009; and one on March 2 for winter storms occurring between January 19 and 26, 2010. Damages from these storms are estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars for public utilities alone. Funding to cover the work to repair these damages cannot be obligated until the DRF is funded. This is in addition to the work related to the 2008 flooding where total damages are expected to exceed \$1 billion dollars and failure to fund the DRF puts work on an estimated \$100 million in project cost funding in jeopardy; this at a time when Iowa is entering prime construction season.

While failure to adequately fund the DRF delays work for the currently declared disasters, I am also concerned the funding may not be there for future declared disasters. Iowa is currently expecting significant flooding resulting from record snow cover, rapid melting, saturated soils and anticipated normal precipitation over the next few weeks. I also note that nationally the

precursors to flooding in many states are significant. Add this high degree of probability for flooding to what may be expected during the upcoming hurricane season and other unanticipated disasters, and it becomes abundantly clear that adequate funding of the DRF is crucial.

With the fifth anniversary of hurricane Katrina approaching, the two year anniversary of Iowa's historic flooding and in light of all the disaster proclamations made since that time, not to mention those expected over the next few months, you can understand why I respectfully urge your quick action on this matter of national importance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chester Culver", written in a cursive style.

Chester J. Culver
Governor of Iowa

cc: Iowa's Congressional Delegation